

The Impact of Media on Children and Parents: Responsibilities in Islamic Perspective

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The objectives of this statement are to:

- Educating and disciplining children and preparing them for the future is one of the duties of parents responsible
- Basic information about high moral qualities
- Information on what to be careful about in relations with other people through Social Media
- Islamic Moral Values about Social Media
- Explore the beneficial and harmful effects of media on children
- Effects of media on children's mental and physical health, and to identify how can counsel their families and promote the healthy use of the media in their communities

Family is the first and basic unit of a society. In Islamic Society, Government makes arrangements for grooming the social units and fulfills its responsibilities related to the social unit (family). Islam has ordered for proper grooming of the members of a family, to teach them about moral values, love and respect towards others and groom their cognitive and moral tenet and the same has been

Elaborated in the Holy Qur'an as follows:

- قلنا اهبطو منها جميعاً فاما يا آتيناكم منى بدئ فمن تبعه بداى فلا خوف عليكم ولا هم يحزنون¹

In the above mentioned verse, Adam and his family i.e. Eve is ordered to stay & live on the earth and further the Holy Qur'an has further explained with regard to morality:

- والعصير وان الانسان لفي خسر لا الذين امنوا وعملوا الصالحات واتوا الصواب بالحق واتوا الصواب بالصبر²

In the above mentioned verse, the social unit of Islamic society is being advised for virtuous deeds, truthfulness and to bear hardships with patience. Islam does not allow so much liberty to a person that he ignore the moral values.³ Meyer F. Nikoff, Sociologist defines the word "Family" in his book "Life Marriage and Family" as "Such interrelation among the husband, wife and children which is durable Family is a natural and central unit of the society and entitled for every possible protection and help at large scale. Large scale.⁴ A.D. Aziz, Ullah Khan defines the Family as such: The term family in Islam is used to designate a special kind of structure whose principles are related to one another through blood ties/or marital

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relationship, and whose related men in of such as nature as to entail. (mutual expectations) that are prescribed by Islam, reinforced by Islamic Law, internalized by the individual Muslim⁵

Family System in Islam:

Islam has given complete instructions regarding every one of them in detail.⁶ It is stated in Surah al-Nisa'

يا ايها الناس اتقوا ربكم الذى خلقكم من نفسى واحدة----- ان الله كان عليكم رقيباً⁷.

O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer,

Shah Walī Allah states in *Hujatul Bāligha* that it cannot be said with certainty that when did “*Irtifāq*” (Company) started, yet it is reality that the society being with a family system and the family begins with the interrelation of a man and woman and the Almighty Creator of Universe himself bound this relation with the binding material of love and affection.⁸

ياايهاالناس إنا خلقناكم من ذكر وانثى ----- عندالله اتق⁹.

O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.

ياايهاالناس اتقوا----- رجالاً كثيراً ونساءً¹⁰. O

O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم Said

واتزوج فَمَنْ رَغِبَ عَنْ سُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي¹¹

1- And I do Marriage and whoever did not follow my way he is not from me

2- Fear Allah

What is meant by Social Media? Introduction of Social Media:

A social Network is an online community where people across the global (irrespective of demographic and geographic differences) can develop network with other organization or individual for some purpose. It creates a chain of linked entities (individual, communities, forum, etc.) like a tree with multiple, nodes and branches. These branches are various groups, communities, forums that and individual intends to join. Hence, a social network represents relationships between nodes (people) and flows between branches.¹² Social network site is also a great source of business communication as companies can access to the target audience about their products, and services. Usually, the majority of people portray their images on these sites as ideal and perfect one which allows the users to realize their day dream in useful and controlled manner. One of the main uses

to join the social networking sites is to establish and maintain the online relations with others without any geographical and demographical restrictions.¹³ Social Media is such a network with which members of a society are connected with each other and this media provides opportunities to get closer. The mass adoption of social networking sites points to an evolution in human social interaction. A research work indicates that social networking is very ancient in its history than internet and mass communication, provided the limitless opportunities for interaction.¹⁴

Types of Social Media:

On basis of usage and purpose, we can safely divide social networking sites (SNS) in five categories:

1. Socializing online communities (or put, Face book, My Space, twitter , etc.)
2. Business networks. (Linked in , Xing video).
3. On line matchmaking / dating communities (match.com, etc.)
4. Sharing interest networks. (Filker, Linked in, You Tube)
5. Alumni networks (Facebook. Or put, etc.)

Media has an important role to strengthen:

From last fifty years, the Information Technology particularly with reference to the computer has made enormous progress which could not be seen in the past. Internet has proved its superiority over all other conventional modes of transmission and has not only made the world population its admirer by providing free, quick and cheap source of information but also changed the whole world into a global village. From Internet information regarding every field of life can easily be obtained. Whether its Education or recreation, business activities or shopping matters, communicating with friends or relatives inland or abroad or to find new friends and talk with strangers, the internet has not left any aspect of life. One of the amazing feature of free source of transmission is that it has no central administration and due to lack of any centralization this global communication system is free from any kind of rules and regulations and every person is free to get information from it.¹⁵ Internet is such a system in which a widespread and integrated world is inhabited which invites every person without discrimination of color, race and creed and the most amazing thing is that there is no central administration of this wide and integrated system instead many organizations are collectively running this system and this increases the importance of internet as due to lack of central administration, internet opens its door for every person who access it. Although internet is collection of many specifications but the four things which discriminate it are latest, fastest, most cheap and easy source of information. Millions of people throughout the world have access to the internet they use it to communicate each other.¹⁶

Disadvantages of internet:

One of the most critical problem which resulted after the advent of internet is pornography, sexploitation and development of western culture. This is very big problem which is creeping very fast into the Young Muslim Generation like Cancer. West has crossed all the principles of civilization and morality and shame and has fallen into the depths of moral pistachios. Similarly, it wants to develop pornographic culture in the whole world, especially Islamic, in which a large number of social and moral values are present and since the advent of internet more than 60% of its portion is occupied by such organizations which are promoting pornography.¹⁷ There are many Social, Moral, Physical, and Psychological issues Internet is a powerful source of information technology. In Muslim Arab Societies, there are many hurdles to access internet particularly for women. The hunger for internet is badly attracting the young boys and girls towards it and we must remember that half of the Muslim population comprises of person aged 17 years or below and to provide net accessibility options for youth will be helpful for merging American tradition and culture in Muslim community.¹⁸ We see that the main objective of the social interaction is the flow of two-way understanding on the basis of truth, information, complete and certified information.¹⁹ The basic point of invention of Internet (social media) was that there should be media that is free of control of any kind of government, country, group or group, so Internet is beneficial in all fields of life and harmful too. Here are thousands of discussion forums and a lot of material from which we want to save our children morally and socially.

Social media has revolutionized our political, social, economic and cultural life, and due to the media, the world has changed into a global village.²⁰ The main purpose of social media (public relations) is to keep the flow of two-way understanding on the basis of accurate information and certified information.²¹ The promotion of Information Technology (Social Media) has improved the future of public media, today the access of the public to social and political information has become easy, but in future the relation of public will become stronger as per requirement with economic, psychological, educational, administrative, scientific and medical fields.²² The benefits of social media far less as compared to the problems created by these different sources of media like pornography, nudity, crushing of human values and unethical acts. Resultantly, the society is deprived of calm and peace, respect & honor is at stake and moral values are crushed and trampled.²³ There are 50 million of social media users ranging from 18 to 35 years, thus 50 million people are using it.

Effects of internet on children:

Legislation is being made to protect Internet access to sites. Laws are being made to check gamble and access to nude and prone sites in Selangor a state in Malaysia.²⁴

There is no scrutiny:

of the internet nor any sort of scrutiny that means that there is no type of censorship, so its example is of a major city, there are such streets in which some families think themselves safe and satisfied but there are some such streets where they do not want to take their children, that is the case of the Internet.²⁵ Parents are getting oblivious to their young generation and the young generation is being trapped in the network of social media which causing degradation and national and moral decline, which can be seen by adding their miseries and districts. Blind following of western culture and race to follow the west seems to be an alternative to modernity. The whole life of these youths and life style from eating food, living even talking is being effected completely. Children are taking intoxicants in form of *Hasish*. They do not fear while taking injurious things like alcohol, *Gutka*, *Ganja*, Cigar, and Heroin.²⁶

Increased rates of suicide:

A website telling the methods to suicide has created great fear in Australia. Those sites also have information about people who want to commit suicide and two girls and a man in South Korea committed suicide by jump from the 28th floor after compromise on the internet. The incidents for committing suicide before internet cameras started since almost 2001, but such deaths came to fame when a Florida-based teenager after many days planning and with consultation of internet users ate large quantity of sleeping pills in front of his personal computer and then went to the bed silently. For hours, the viewer's kept on thinking it as a drama and fun and when he did not move after hours then people called the police. Similarly, the seventy-eight-year-old student of America committed suicide on a petty issue that her boyfriend taunt her on the internet, she got so distressed that she hanged by tying her belt round the neck.²⁷

Inclination to illegal sources of income:

Before the advent of present media, there was a limited concept of needs in public and they were contended and thankful for little. Most of the nodes were instead of those above, were towards the lower ones. Unlimited requirements inspire to adopt illegal means of income. By eliminating the emotions of contentment, people are becoming more and greedier and fanning the fire of getting more. Besides social depravity, fast growing materialism, uncivilized customs & traditions and social imbalance are those factors which are causing domestic pungency and media has a major role in fanning the same.²⁸ People are being deceived by making fake Face Book accounts. Similarly by hacking E-Mail or social

media account, the personal information of people has been accessed and a chain for getting money by kidnapping the children started.²⁹

The media encourages the trend of escape in society:

Some people already spending time and money on computer gaming, chatting, and more funny activities. Will their next life pass through the time in these unusual activities? What will happen if the realistic reality is more reasonable than realistic? Will people lose the real life routes and stray in the in artificial and unrealistic media world. All these activities need a serious consideration.³⁰ The media is an important source and everywhere in our lives is affecting and dominating whether the social field or the political culture or the education, its effect is widespread and the lasting. Collectively every person wants to be fully aware with the conditions of his city and country and which is going around all over the world.³¹ The programs like “live the way you want” and “fun” are creating negative effects on the society. Similarly, the advertising programs of luxurious products for glamour class has made the life of a poor person miserable. Simplicity and contentment is vanishing from the families. A huge number of females are coming out to meet their financial needs, and in this way whole family particularly children are being ignored and family clashes are increasing.³²

Promoting of violence in children:

According to the famous American psychiatrist Dr. Jimmy Car Hornino, what is being provided to the children and the youth on the media and the way scenes of violence and obscenity are imprinted on their mind are a type of social poison and social toxicity and the children are affected by seeing such violence scenes.³³ When the child is 18 years old, he is a witness to seeing 40,000 murders and 20,000 slaughtered scenes in violent landscaping on the media. Most of these programs have severe impact on the children as by seeing violence and crime videos on social media most of them suffer from frustration and depression. They want to live a life as spend by the actors and models which they have chosen as role model and on failure suffer from many psychological problems.³⁴

End of social and religious values:

Fraud and cheating is becoming more common in the society. A person applied for Credit card by getting the particulars, name, social security number, date of birth of another person and after issuance of card not only got loans on that card but also committed crimes by using his name. The poor fellow, whose name is being used is in complete dark that someone has got issued a card in his name and done illegalities.³⁵

Modern Media creating immorality:

It has played a vital role in creating immorality in youth, aimless life style, Fashion love, sexual behavior, violence and destruction. Media has a major role in the changes appearing in different societies at international

level.³⁶ In past, marriages were arranged by the parents or respectable of family but now the trend of e-dating and e-friendship is dominating.³⁷

Rumors are also spread within a society due to social media:

The poison of Sectarianism and hate is being spread in society by rumors. No doubt latest Technology particularly SMS and Social Media i.e. Face book, Twitter is utilizing its abilities in more affective and useful way but every era has its own technology and those nations, social group or individual who refuse to accept it is left far behind.

Valentine day a festive occasion:

Valentine's Day is such an event which has been promote the most on social media. Due to internet and mobile phones chatting the myths like Valentine 's Day is promoted in Pakistan. Due to which this shameless festival is being celebrated on large scale in Pakistan. Different functions are arranged at this occasion throughout the country. Young boys and girls wear red dress and red rose is given in one hand and chocolate is given in the other hand. The most horrible thing is that it that a tradition of establishing sexual relations between unmarried couples has also been started. Young boys and girls arrange meetings at different hotels, guest rooms, ice-cream parlors, Canteens, parks and at houses of some friends from where the girl returns after losing everything. Last year secret videos of sexual relations of more than 4000 couples was made in an ice-cream parlor in Karachi, and thereafter these videos were sold to a foreign site in billions. When this was reported, then it was thought that what would be the repote of those girls in society.³⁸ Relations over Face Book, Twitter and other sites and their aftereffects on family, Young boys and girls make friendship over these sites and social networking websites are very famous in youth.

Same is the condition of pictorial social environments.³⁹ Social media has created many negative effects along with positivity in the society which includes promotion of nudity, demonstration of nudity on public places, use of internet aimlessly, wastage of time and promotion of illegitimate relations.⁴⁰

Increase in depravity:

New virtual social environment has an ability that more than a thousand of users can contact you at the same time, where young internet users made unethical moves and actions e.g. imagination of bullying, quarrels, abuses, shameless acts with opposite sex etc. and all this is done in three dimensional environment, where the human body is maximum exposed.⁴¹ The websites which children watch through social media, it may have many types like from forcibly rape to different actions including kissing, hugging and cheap talking etc.⁴² Social Networking website Net Log has more than 56 million net users all over Europe and Net log has

admitted its helplessness in this regard. It means that there is not a single way for verification of online identity.⁴³

Psychological effect of Media.

At present, media has made enormous progress. As the human body becomes sick by eating adulterated things, similarly with the amalgamated news/ stories of media make the human mind sick. The good or bad influence of the news effects rapidly and last for long time.⁴⁴ Media effects thinking, understanding and actions of people. It seems that Television, Computer and then internet take the human mind to a virtual world and their interaction with the other members of society is reduced. Internet, i-Pod, Computer games has worsen the matter. It has affected the human relations. Psychologically, the users at internet chat rooms, instant messaging, social networking websites (e.g. face book, twitter, my webcams, friend's center etc) not only visually deceive other users but also deceive them by telling their wrong age. It is thought always that online chatter is a young aged boy or girl.

Distance between family members:

Due to use of Social Media the family members are getting away from each other. In past a sittings were made with the elders of family. Children used to give time to grandparents. Children used to exchange ideas and experience with parents but now everyone is either busy at mobile phone or steering the screen of laptop and the elders of the family are facing solitary

Depreciation of family:

The western civilization stab the existence of family system resultantly they have forced the woman to suffer isolation. Whereas our woman is standing at the verge of two civilizations. Man and woman both are busy in unnecessary use of social media and getting far from each other. New techniques of information has made every house an office, which has created distance between the spouses.⁴⁵ The estimate for spending time spent computer and its relevant media can be assessed from this fact that the people of this internet age spend about 20 years of their life while using internet.⁴⁶

Online harassment:

"online harassment" is often, used interchangeably with the term "cyberbullying," it is actually indifferent object. Current data suggest that online harassment is not as common as offline harassment⁴⁷, and participation in social networking sites does not put most children at risk of online harassment.⁴⁸

Violence:

Social networking has different childhood affectedly in the past period and is becoming a anxiety for politicians and organizations responsible for protection children. The NSPCC cited social media as a

major cause of the dramatic increase in the numbers of children admitted to hospital after self-harming⁴⁹

Parents duties and teachings of Islam:

We must follow the golden principle of Islam i.e. “Enjoining the good and forbidden the wrong” while combating any kind of media, its widespread effect and technical properties. This golden principle of Islam defines the limits of media and makes the media beneficial for society and the social family unit of a society.

Protection of private life:

Media is not allowed to search the private life of persons and this is not good morally and it causes scrimmage in the society. Holy Qur'an states

يا ايها الذين امنوا اجتنبوا كثيراً من الظن ان بعض الظن اثم ولا تجسسوا ولا يفتب بعضكم بعضاً
ايحب احدهم ان ياكل لحم اخيه ميتاً فكر بتموه⁵⁰ -

O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah ; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم Said

اياكم والظن فان الظن اكذب الحديث ولا تقسوا ولا تحبسوا ولا تنا حبثوا ولا تعاسدوا ولا تباغضوا ولا تدابروا وكونوا عبدالله اخوانا⁵¹.

Avoid Suspicion, for suspicion is the gravest lie in talk and do not be inquisitive about one another and do not spy upon one another and do not feel envy with the other, and nurse no malice and nurse no aversion and hostility against one another. And be fellow-brothers and servants of Allah.

Provided that right information:

Providing information and publishing news providently cause many problems which may lead to chaos in a family and misconceptions are created between spouses and brother and sisters.

⁵²يا ايها الذين امنوا تقوا الله وقولوا قولاً سديداً

O the people who believe! Fear Allah and say the right thing. When we transfer information at social media to each other, it is a sort of witness and the Holy Qur'an states:

والذين لا يشهدون الزور واذامر باللغو مروا كراماً⁵³

And [they are] those who do not testify to falsehood, and when they pass near ill speech, they pass by with dignity.

Prevention of obscenity:

The most important feature which has been observed at social media is the searching of pornographic sites and spreading of obscenity and nakedness. As west is deprived of basic property of modesty therefore its art, literacy, recreation all are phenomenon of obscenity and promoting the same.

Sexual displacement is their specialty and we should avoid it. Promotion of obscenity in Islamic Society is condemnable.

يحبون ان تشيع الفاحشة في الذين امنولهم عذاب اليم في الدنيا والاخرة والله يعلم انتم لا تعلمون ان الذين⁵⁴
Indeed, those who like that immorality should be spread [or publicized] among those who have believed will have a painful punishment in this world and the Hereafter. And Allah knows and you do not know.

قل انما حرم ربى الفواحش ماظهر منها ومابطن ولاثم والبيى بغير الحق و ان تشركوا بالله ما لم منزل به ء
سلطنا وان تقولوا على الله ما لا تعلمون⁵⁵.

Say, "My Lord has only forbidden immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed - and sin, and oppression without right, and that you associate with Allah that for which He has not sent down authority, and that you say about Allah that which you do not know.

Making fun of others on Social Media:

ياايهاالذين امنولايسخر قوم من قوم عسى ان يكونوا خيرا منهم ولا نساء من نسايعسى ان يكن خيرا منهن ولا
تلمزوا انفسكم ولا تتنازوا بالالقباب بئس الاسم العنوق بعد الايمان ومن لم يتب فاؤلئك بهم الظلمون⁵⁶.

O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers.

Conclusion:

Social media is an amazing invention of science which has caused positive as well as negative effects on the human life. Family and society are receiving both kinds of effects. Rapid communication of information had reduced the distances of centuries into moments. Social media puts two stripes like sword, use of sword is also meant to end up the suppressor and to establish an atmosphere of peace, and it is also used for killing and murdering and to provoke evil emotions. The point of view is that the sword is in the hands of a person who does not know the meaning of peace and prosperity and violates the moral values. Or this sword is in the hands of a person whose nature has good wishes and humility in nature.

Media should be used for family education and training and not for creating dispersion and differences. The future generations and today's youth are our investment and capital. Any wise person never let his capital to be looted but carefully and wisely secures it and strives to increase it so that future can be made safe and comfortable.

Recommendations:

- Awareness must be disseminated for positive use of social media.
- If the family system is strong internally then the external effects will not effect.

- Parents must keep an eye on their children that how they are using social media and mold them for positive use of social media.
- Low-educated parents learn the use of latest technologies so that their children may not deceive them.
- Parents give more time to the children and get the children closer to them so that the parents may be aware of the activities of their children at social media.
- Make the children habitual of book reading.
- Give more time to elders of family so that in future our children may give time to us.
- Try to create Fear of Allah and relation with Allah so that they may not see wrong matter privately.

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